

The Socialist Party and Poland

National Executive Committee Resolution

The National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party meeting in Pittsburgh, August 21, 22, 23rd, received a letter and manifesto from the Polish Socialist Alliance of America calling upon the Socialist Party of the United States to render moral support to the Polish forces, now battling against the Russian Soviet Troops. The Polish Socialist Alliance was formerly the Polish Federation of the Socialist Party of the United States. In 1915, however, it was expelled from the Socialist Party of the United States, because it was raising money to arm and equip the Polish Legion under General Pilsudski, now president of Poland, then an officer in the Austrian army.

The Polish Socialist Party issued an appeal to the Socialists and the working people of the world through Warsaw, which the Polish Socialist Alliance of the United States translated and issued to the Socialists of the United States. In refusing its support, to the Polish cause, the Socialist Party of the United States said:
To the Executive Committee of the Polish Socialist Alliance:

"The National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party has received through you the appeal of the Socialist Party of Poland addressed to the Socialists and Workingmen's Organizations of the World. At your request we have given careful consideration to this appeal. We note the following allegation of facts submitted by the Socialist Party of Poland:

1. That during the first months of Polish independence the government was in the hands of the laborers and peasants.

2. That this government was overthrown by the reactionary classes.

3. That the Socialist Party of Poland has demonstrated for peace and against war.

4. Early in 1920 the Polish government began sending notes to the Soviet Government of Russia and followed this with an offensive against Kiev.

5. The Polish Socialist Party opposed an "aggressive war," did not doubt "the right of the Ukrainians to govern themselves" but you opposed other countries "interfering in the affairs" of Poland.

6. You claim to have done your duty as regards Socialism "from the standpoint of the solid patriotism of the working class, and our duty to your country."

7. You could not force peace from your ruling classes.

8. Russia is dominated by imperialist ambitions and her armies are led by the "generals of against Russia and you "began this war to save the late Czar." Russian leaders have forgotten the "right to independence of other peoples."

9. The Polish workers have risen in arms the independence of our land."

10. You appeal to the workers of all countries to support the Polish Socialist Party in its support of the Polish government.

In considering this appeal to the Socialist Party of Poland, we cannot avoid noting that the government of the workers and peasants was overthrown by the capitalist and land-owning classes and that the Polish Socialist Party is now supporting this reactionary government in the name of Polish "patriotism." What follows in this appeal indicates that the Polish Socialist Party has completely forgotten its aims to reconquer its lost position in Poland and is lending its aid to the Clerical-Junker-Capitalist clique that rules in Warsaw.

This fact is sufficient to condemn the Polish Socialist Party as a chauvinist tool of reactionaries which has forgotten whatever Socialism it may have professed.

On the basis of this appeal the conduct of the Socialist Party of Poland towards the Ukraine has also been shameful. You opposed "aggressive" war against the Ukraine, whatever that may mean. Did this take the form of active protest against the Kiev offensive? Your own Pilsudski's approval of the Polish offensive against the Ukraine gives the answer. Some of the imperialist diplomatic partners of the Polish ruling classes gasped at the Polish thrust at the Ukraine. They were embarrassed in attempting to explain this robber's raid on the Ukraine.

Yet the Polish Socialist Party appeals to the proletariat of Western Europe and America to support this reactionary Warsaw government!

The Polish Socialist Party adds to its betrayal of Socialism a distortion of history. It asserts that it has joined in Pilsudski's war against Russia to preserve the independence of Poland. The Polish imperialists urged the Versailles peace conference to give Poland the Russian frontier of 1772. It is a notorious fact that this frontier would include large areas with a large majority of non-Polish peoples. Even the Entente imperialists, anxious to make of Poland a tool of western imperialism and a buffer between Russia and Germany, could not acquiesce in the frontiers of 1772.

Balked by their patrons and allies at Versailles, the Polish ruling classes launched an attack upon Russia, invading Russian territory nearly 200 miles. This attack was a naked and shameless attempt to conquer non-Polish territory and bring its people under the domination of the Warsaw reactionaries. Yet the Polish Socialist Party has the effrontery to appeal to us in the name of "this war to save the independence" of Poland!

The one count the Polish Socialist Party makes against the Soviet government is the presence of former Czarist officers in the Soviet armies. Is it not known to the Polish Socialist Party that the

families of these Russian generals are held as hostages for good behavior at the front? Is it not now known that revolutionary committees in the armies also review the plans of the generals to insure that no revival of Czarist ambitions shall endanger the masses of Russia and other countries?

The Polish Socialist Party also distorts history when it charges the Russian government with having forgotten the "right to independence of other peoples." It was the first to act upon this principle by recognizing self-determinism of Finland, Poland, Latvia, Esthonia, Lithuania and Ukraina. It has signed peace with a number of these countries on this basis while American imperialism, through Woodrow Wilson, recognizes self-determination only for Finland and Poland.

The terms of peace offered Poland by Soviet Russia are very moderate and without any trace of imperialist aims. Guarantees are asked against any further attacks by Poland by reducing the Polish army, to an annual contingent of 50,000 men. The frontier offered Poland is even more generous than what was conceded by the Allied peace conference at Versailles. Therefore it is sheer hypocrisy to assert that Russia is dominated by imperialist ambitions.

Why is it that Polish imperialism is receiving the support of the most reactionary governments in the world while the organized masses of the world are opposing it and supporting Russia? Why do the organized workers of Germany, France, England, Italy and the United States, wherever they have spoken, oppose the shipment of munitions to Poland or extension of aid to Poland?

You ask us for "understanding and a just ap-

preciation." We frankly give it. The Socialist Party of the United States regards the Socialist Party of Poland as an organization that is serving the chauvinist regime in Warsaw which in turn is a tool of French bankers. There can be no understanding with such an organization that has so grossly betrayed the ideals of International Socialism. It has become a tool of the imperialist victors of the Entente and is a disgrace to working class solidarity.

The Polish Socialist Alliance of the United States, in sending this Warsaw appeal to us, asks us to abandon principles for which we have sacrificed so much during the past three years. To give a favorable answer would be to betray the fighters for freedom who are imprisoned in American jails and to forfeit the confidence of the American working class.

We have opposed our native imperialism at home and have suffered for it. The Polish Socialist Alliance owes it to the American Socialists and the Socialists of the world to repudiate the imperialist government of land owners in Poland and its chauvinist Socialist lackeys in Poland. It is a disgrace to the Socialist movement of any country to be enmeshed in an alliance with the reactionary governments that seek the destruction of Russia or that aid the imperialist aims of Pilsudski, Dwamshi and other leaders of Polish imperialism.

We hail the action of the workers of France, Italy, Germany and Great Britain against the Polish Junkers as a sign of that working class solidarity that will put an end to such regimes as that which rules Warsaw and that excludes the treachery implied in the conduct of the Polish Socialist Party.

PARTY PLANS AGGRESSIVE CAMPAIGN

The National Executive Committee made final plans for the National Campaign of the party at its last meeting in Pittsburgh, August 21-23. In addition to the tours of Kate Richards O'Hare and Seymour Stedman, who will be accompanied by Eugene Wood of New York, a number of well-known Socialists will tour the country under the auspices of the National Office.

Irwin St. John Tucker, Lilith Martin and Mary McVicker are now in the field, and George R. Kirkpatrick, Jacob Panken, Scott Nearing, Poss D. Brown, Charles Sehl, Florence Wattles, Esther Friedman, Winnie E. Branstetter, W. R. Snow, May Harris Mainland and others will shortly take the field.

William H. Henry will make the Stedman tour one week in advance of the Vice-Presidential candidate. The meetings that are now being held in different parts of the country are highly successful, the National Secretary reported. The people seem eager for the Socialist message.

The electoral ticket of the Party will appear on the ballot in nearly every state. In Idaho, South Dakota and Wyoming the election laws will make it absolutely impossible for a Socialist ticket to appear, while in eight other states there is still a chance for the ticket not being permitted to stand. The Debs and Stedman electoral ticket, however, will appear on the ballot in about forty-three states.

The work of reorganizing the Party where persecution and internal controversies have disrupted the organization, is proceeding rapidly. In the Solid South, Joe Rhoden, district organizer, has been organizing locals in all the states of the South. He has organized five locals in Florida and other locals in North Carolina and Louisiana. Alabama and Georgia likewise have flourishing organizations.

At the Pittsburgh meeting, the National Secretary reported that all the changes in the National Constitution proposed at the New York convention, were carried, as were the two Majority re-